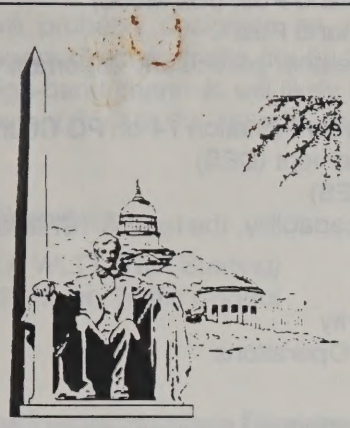


The CAPITOL HILL MONITOR

May 1993

ON THE INSIDE

ANDREWS AFB OPEN HOUSE

For aircraft and scanner buffs alike, the annual joint services open house at Andrews Air Force Base is near paradise. Although billed as a "joint services" (*i.e.*, more than one military service), the displays and action are primarily those of the US Air Force. It is simply a matter of logistics. There are no major Army troop units with heavy equipment (e.g., tanks, APC) in the DC area. And even *our* Navy finds it a little difficult to dock an aircraft carrier at Andrews. However, aircraft from the Naval Aviation Service and the US Army will at least be on display. In the past, aircraft from some Allied units, such as the RAF and Luftwaffe, have also been on display.

With the possibility of monitoring the assortment of aircraft that will begin arriving up to a week before the show, the open house is a must for scanner enthusiasts. Not only will the aircraft frequencies be busy, both VHF and UHF, but the ground support frequencies will be as well.

The feature "act" for the open house will be the USAF Demonstration Team, the Thunderbirds! (Last year it was the Navy Blue Angels' turn). In addition to the Thunderbirds, the Army's Golden Knights will perform during the May 14 and 15 open house. As of this writing, a mass drop by the Army's 82nd Airborne Division has not been announced. However, mass parachute drops have become almost standard at the Joint Services Open Houses.

We have prepared some frequency suggestions to get you started. While at the open house, please do us a favor: Take pictures (if allowed) of any cockpit frequency-cards you come across and make note of any interesting activity you monitor on your scanner. Please share your findings!

If you need more details, call the open house hot-line 301-568-5995.

USAF Thunderbirds

The Thunderbirds F-16C "Fighting Falcon" jets are scheduled to arrive at Andrews AFB on May 10 at 3:25 p.m. The aircraft will perform arrival maneuvers before touching down on the Andrews flight line. In past shows, including last year's, both the tower (289.6) and the UNICOM (122.85) were used as "show control". The VHF tower frequency (118.4) may also be used. Refer to the October 1992 CHM newsletter for Joe Gallagher's article on last year's show.

Frequencies reportedly used during the Thunderbirds performances appear below. The listings come from numerous sources with no guarantee of accuracy.

250.8500 Team Leader
273.5000 F2 Air to Air
283.5000 F3 Air to Air
294.7000 F1 Air to Air
322.3000 F4 Air to Air
322.6000 F5 Air to Air
382.9000 F6 Air to Air

394.0000 F7 Air to Air
413.0250 Ground Support
066.9000 Ground Support
236.5500 Air to Air
140.4000 Air to Air (AM Mode)
141.8500 Air to Air (AM Mode)
124.9250 Air to Air-Support
120.4500 Air to Air Coordination
148.5500 Maintenance

For those who are not used to monitoring military aircraft, a few notes: communications are usually very terse; air to air and air to ground communications in the VHF band are in AM mode, not NFM.

US Army Golden Knights

The US Army Parachute Demonstration Team, the Golden Knights, are based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. They usually make several parachute jumps during these shows and are as renowned for their aerial acrobatics as for their accuracy.

032.2000 Verified by Joe in 1992
032.3000 Secondary
042.3500 Primary (also verified by Joe in 1992)
123.4000
123.4250
123.4750

Andrews Air Force Base

Following are some selected frequencies from "ADW" that are active all the time. During the show, many of these will become even more active. If you only could listen to one frequency to keep abreast of everything that is going on, monitor the command net on 142.225. (Some people due to location and other factors may be able to hear the UHF link, 413.075, better.)

118.4000 Tower
236.6000 Alternate Tower
289.6000 Tower
121.8000 Ground Control
275.8000 Ground Control
119.3000 Approach/Depart
335.5000 Approach/Depart
125.3500 Approach/Depart
124.0000 Approach/Depart
360.8000 Approach/Depart
379.2000 Approach/Depart
389.8000 Approach/Depart
NOTE: Also listen to Washington National, which controls much of the air space leading into Andrews, particularly 128.35, 294.5, 125.65, 306.3.
122.8500 Pilot to Dispatch (USAF & USN)
372.2000 Pilot to Dispatch (USAF)
386.8000 Pilot to Dispatch (USN)
141.5500 SAM Command Post (AM Mode)
378.1000 SAM Command Post
344.6000 METRO (Weather-particularly important during parchute drops)
173.5875 Fire Department (Station 74 on PG County)
413.3750 Law Enforcement (DES)
413.0000 Security (DES)
(If you have CTCSS capability, the tone is 127.3 for both LE and Scty)
169.6000 Motor Pool
413.0500 Navy Security
407.4500 Navy Base Operations

Ad Hoc Command and Demonstration Nets

During previous open houses, several low-band temporary radio nets were established. The frequencies vary significantly from year to year, but normally come from the 32 to 33, 38 to 39 and 40 to 42 MHz bands. In some cases, however, the frequencies used (such as 35.25 or 37.85) lie between non-federal allocations. Frequencies used during previous open houses appear below.

Armed Forces Command Net

35.25, 37.85, 38.25 and 41.55

Headquarters MDW Command Net

32.25, 40.2, 42.2 and 42.65

Demonstration Nets

2.63, 2.71 and 2.754 (RTTY)
30.75, 38.1, 38.3 and 41.65 (Voice)

NOTE: While VHF low frequncies have been used in the past, there is a good possibility that some of the frequencies used during the Presidential Inauguration may also be used.

Civil Air Patrol

026.6200
148.1250
148.1500
149.9250

Civilian Public Safety

While civilian agencies have no authority or jurisdiction on Andrews AFB, they will be vitally concerned with the very heavy traffic that the open house creates as thousands of people converge to enjoy the show.

039.1000 MSP F1 Statewide
039.3000 MSP F3 Forestville, Barrack L
047.2000 SHA F5 District 3
047.3200 SHA F1 Statewide
494.7875 PGFD F3/5 South County Fireground
494.9375 PGPD F7 South County Alternate

MSP will probably designate an alternate frequency for troopers directing traffic (try 39.26 and 39.34). The MSP high-band channels will likely be used as well to some extent (try 155.73, 155.475 and 155.19).

Traffic Reporters

450.7000 WLTT (Walt Starling)
455.9125 Metro Traffic Control

GMRS REPEATERS, REACT & EMERGENCY TEAMS

by Ken Fowler, Frequency Forum Co-sysop

REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Team) members are volunteers who monitor citizens band radio channel 9 and provide emergency assistance to motorists. They receive reports of disabled motorists and other roadside emergencies and relay the reports to authorities, who also monitor channel 9, or by calling them on the telephone.

REACT teams also use and monitor for emergency assistance other communications services. These include Amateur Radio, General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), Marine radio service, hospital and search & rescue radio services. REACT teams also provide communications assistance for community events and disasters. This is provided on as a secondary public service.

GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) frequencies, formerly known as Class A citizens band, are set aside for individuals and organizations, such as REACT, for travelers assistance and personal communications. The eight GMRS repeater frequencies appear below (input frequencies are five MHz higher).

462.550 462.575 462.600 462.625 462.650 462.675 462.700 462.725

The seven two-watt GMRS simplex splinter frequencies, authorized in 12.5 KHz off-sets, appear below.

462.5625 462.5875 462.6125 462.6375 462.6625 462.6875 462.7125

For information on how to form a REACT team or joining one in your area, write to REACT International Inc., PO Box 998, Wichita, KS 67201.

The following is a list of REACT and emergency groups in the DC, MD and VA area that use GMRS for communication.

District of Columbia

Federal City REACT #2515 (462.675)

Maryland

Cascade REACT #2833, Hagerstown (462.65 and 462.675)
Charles County REACT #3203, Waldorf (462.675)
Frostburg REACT #4816, Frostburg (462.6 and 462.675)
Hagerstown REACT #C22, Hagerstown (462.6 and 462.65)
Harford County REACT #2342, Bel Air, (462.675)
Hot Line REACT #4086, Hagerstown (462.65 and 462.675)
Montgomery County REACT #2388, Ijamsville (462.6 and 462.675)
Prince George's County REACT #2106, Suitland (462.55, 462.625 and 462.675)
Saint Mary's County REACT #3252, California (462.575 and 462.675)

Virginia

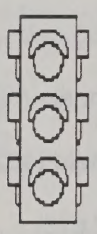
Blue Ridge REACT #C142, Lynchburg (462.65 and 462.675)
CapCon Emergency Response Team, Annandale (462.55, 462.575, 462.6 and 462.675)
Fairfax County REACT Team #C360, Springfield (462.675 and 462.6)
Front Royal REACT #C705, Front Royal (462.675)
Herndon REACT #C332, Herndon (462.6 and 462.675)
Loudoun County REACT #4459, Sterling (462.625)
Massanutten REACT #4679, Luray (462.675)
National Capital REACT #C490, Alexandria (462.6 and 462.675)
Northern Virginia REACT #2356, Arlington (462.6 and 462.675)
Peninsula REACT #2037, Newport News (462.575 and 462.675)
Prince William County REACT #C109, Manassas (462.675)
Richmond Metro REACT #3968, Richmond (462.6 and 462.675)
Roanoke Valley REACT #2166, Roanoke (462.675)
Rockingham County Emergency #3361, Bridgewater (462.6 and 462.675)
Shenandoah Valley REACT #2871, Staunton (462.6 and 462.675)
Tidewater REACT #C053, Portsmouth (462.675)
Winchester REACT #4751, Winchester (462.675)

NCRI (National Capital REACT Inc.) operates repeaters on 462.6 and 462.675. Other teams use the NCRI repeater systems and identify with their team prefix and unit number. Two non-REACT non-profit organizations also use the NCRI repeaters (Ivy Hill Cemetery and Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries).

NCRI, GMRS Unit Numbers

0xx Federal City REACT
1xx Radio Emergency Safety Team
2xx Montgomery County REACT
3xx National Capital REACT
4xx Fairfax County REACT
5xx Northern Virginia REACT
6xx Herndon REACT
83x Ivy Hill Cemetery
88x Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries
89x Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries
9xx Other Non-REACT Users
11xx Prince George's County REACT
PW xx Prince William County REACT
Cascade xx Cascade REACT Team
Citywide xx Citywide Radio UHF Users

Thanks Ken! Ken recently started his own mail-order business. He carries Police Call volume 2 (MD, PA, NJ, DE, NY) and volume 6 (VA, DC, WV, NC, SE, FL, GA). Each volume costs $7.95 plus $1 postage (Virginia residents please include 4.5 percent tax). Mail your orders to Ken R. Fowler, PO Box 506, Oakton, Va. 22124-0506.



BITS & PIECES

Metro Traffic Changes Frequency. Metro Traffic gurus Bruce Howard and Mike Meehan inform us that Metro Traffic Control just changed its repeater frequency. 450.9125 is now the input to a repeater on 455.9125 (CTCSS of 141.3 Hz on input and output).

DC Fire Department Adds New 800 MHz Repeater. Our friend at the DCFD radio shop, Jim Buscher, says 852.7375 (127.3 Hz) will be officially designated as channel 4 on the DCFD 800 MHz radio. The new repeater will be used primarily by EMS units as an alternative to the med channels. BLS units will be able to communicate with the control and receiving hospitals over this channel. During Clinton's inauguration, DCFD erected a temporary repeater on 852.7375 for inaugural command post coordination.

The primary 154.19 MHz repeater site, with a 230 watt output, is at Engine 32 (2425 Irving St. SE). The antenna for the repeater, a GE Mastr IIe series, is 150 feet high, yielding an effective radiated power of 920 watts. Coverage has been drastically increased, Jim says, noting that the 154.19 MHz signal is strongly received throughout southern Maryland. Even Wake County, NC, who uses 154.19 in the Raleigh area, now routinely receives the District Fire Department. The back-up 154.19 MHz repeater, and primary transmitters for the other VHF channels, are at the Communications Division (300 McMillan Dr. NW).

Jim also provides us with the locations of the DCFD VHF transmit sites.

KGA611

Communications Division (154.19/back-up, 154.235, 154.28, 154.205, 154.295)

Metro (154.19 at Judiciary Square, L'Enfant Plaza-Blue/Orange lines and Potomac Avenue)

WNZN416

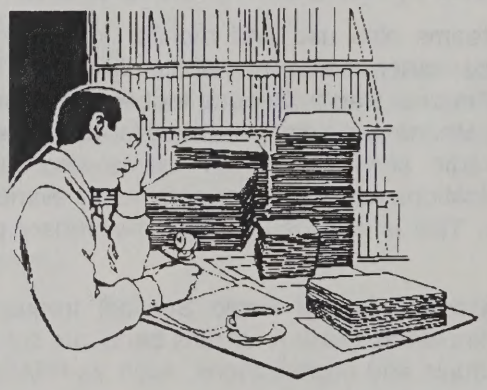
Engine 32 (154.19/primary repeater)

Metro (154.19 at Anacostia, Friendship Heights, Navy Yard, Shaw-Howard University and Woodley Park-Zoo)

WNZT516

Metro (154.19 at Benning Road, Capitol Heights, Farragut, L'Enfant Plaza-Green/Yellow lines, McPherson Square and Van Ness-UDC)

Used portable Bearcat BC200XLT for sale for $125. Contact Steve Eisen at 301-933-6804.



NewsScan

by Brent Baker

Virginia State Police Drop CB Radios. Newly purchased Virginia State Police vehicles will no longer have CB radios installed, although they will not be removed from the current fleet. A story in the Feb. 20 Washington Times reported that they are being removed to make room for a new system, presumably the LO-JACK stolen car locator which operates on 173.075 and requires four antennas on police cruisers: "Police officials in Richmond said CB radios have fallen victim to newer technology that requires a bevy of antennas, including a high-tech stolen car locating system set to go on-line this spring.

'I guess state police are known to have a lot of antennas...We're having a space problem,' said Charles Vaughn, a state police spokesman." Not everyone is pleased. Janet Naylor of the Times found: "The move has some troopers and safety advocates upset, especially because it was done without informing the public. 'They're destroying a vital link the public has with the state police,' said a trooper who asked not to be identified."

Wise to Have a Back-up. The World Trade Center explosion taught New York City television stations that it pays to have a back-up transmitter at a different location than their main one. As recounted in the March 8 Electronic Media, the blast knocked all but one NYC station off the air because "every local station had its back-up transmitter on the World Trade Center, except CBS-owned WCBS-TV, which has its back-up transmitter on the Empire State Building and was able to stay on the air."

The stations were able to establish land-line connections with local cable television companies. At about 11 p.m., power was restored and all stations were able to broadcast again, but a WPIX-TV engineer said, "I think we all have to sit down and re-evaluate the back-up plan. We obviously were not in a good situation when this happened."

Quieter Emergencies. A new headphone being tested by the Anne Arundel County Fire Department filters out the loud siren so firefighters can hear each other and the radio. A March issue of The Washington Times reported that the headsets "use sound to mask sound, a technique called active noise reduction. Sound waves are composed of crests and troughs. If one sound's crests coincide with another sound's troughs, they balance each other out....In practice it is impossible to produce an exact mirror image of sounds in the air," but "the ambulance headsets cut the siren's noise by as much as 70 percent."

Manufactured by Noise Cancellation Technologies Inc. of Connecticut, the headsets were developed at a Linthicum, Md. plant and are being marketed by Federal Signal Corp. Anne Arundel brought them for three ambulances and a fire truck. Captain J. Gary Sheckells noted that with them "you can hear your partner and the fire dispatch radio."

New NCIC. As part of a major upgrade of the FBI's NCIC (National Crime Information Computer), police officers will soon be able to run fingerprint-based wanted checks from their cars. A somewhat vague April 10 Washington Post story described the new process:

1) A "Fingerprint is scanned electronically by officer on patrol." Apparently, departments will be able to install a computer scanner in squad cars. The article did not explore whether that would require the suspect to sit in the front seat, or whether an officer could use a portable unit and then transfer the image to the mobile unit."

2) "Information is transmitted by radio from police car to a computer at the local police station." Presumably, this could be done on an MDT frequency, but the article didn't provide any details, such as how much data transmission would be required for such a scanned image.

3) "Local police send data via phone lines to a state police computer."

4) "State police send print information via phone lines to the FBI, where it is compared with a database of 250,000 fingerprints. Information is sent back to the officer on patrol through the same channels."

The 47 million dollar contract to upgrade NCIC went to Harris Corp. of Melbourne, Fla. When Completed in two years, the system will be capable of searching through 250,000 fingerprints in 20 seconds, handle 82 incoming inquiries per second and provide most non-fingerprint responses within five seconds. The current NCIC is 25 years old. Harris' deal calls for the company to sell the first 11,000 desktop and mobile terminals to police departments, but after that other companies can get in on the business. It should be lucrative, since "the current selling price is $9,000 to $10,000 for desktop terminals."

* * *

SCANNER LISTENERS GET SHAFTED, AGAIN...

The following is in regard to FCC Docket No. 92-1, a proposed rule which prohibits the marketing of radio scanners capable of receiving cellular phone conversations (Report No. DC-2300, Jan. 6, 1993). Send a SASE to Alan If you desire a reprint of the entire FCC report and proposal.

The FCC proposes to amend Parts 2 and 15 of its rules to "prohibit the manufacture or importation of radio scanners capable of receiving or being altered to receive frequencies allocated to the Domestic Public Cellular Radio Telecommunications Service. This action is in response to the Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act" signed into law by the President on Oct. 28, 1992. The proposed rules are "intended to increase the privacy protection of cellular telephone users without unduly restricting legitimate use of scanners."

In accordance with the Act, the FCC proposed rules "requiring that scanner receivers be incapable of tuning, or readily being altered to tune, within the bands allocated to the Domestic Public Cellular Radio Telecommunications Service. The proposed rules would also prohibit frequency converters used in conjunction with scanners that receive, or can be easily modified to receive, cellular transmissions and require that scanners be incapable of converting digital cellular transmissions to voice audio."

"...within our rules scanning receivers, or 'scanners,'" states the proposed rule, "are radio receivers that automatically switch between four or more frequencies anywhere within the 30-960 MHz band. In order to control

their potential to cause harmful interference to authorized radio communications, the rules require that scanners receive an equipment authorization (certification) from the FCC prior to marketing."

"The Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99-508, in part," says the FCC, "made it illegal to intentionally intercept cellular communications or to manufacture equipment primarily useful for the surreptitious interception of cellular communications. However, the FCC was not given specific authority to deny equipment authorization to scanners that receive cellular frequencies. As a result, scanners capable of receiving cellular frequencies are routinely authorized by the FCC."

"In the past five years," the proposal states, "22 different models of scanning receivers capable of receiving cellular telephone transmissions have been issued grants of equipment authorization. During this same period, ten other models capable of tuning frequencies between 806 and 900 MHz except for the cellular bands have also been authorized. Several publications currently on the market describe relatively simple modifications that users can make to many of the latter scanning receivers to enable that equipment to receive cellular telephone transmissions."

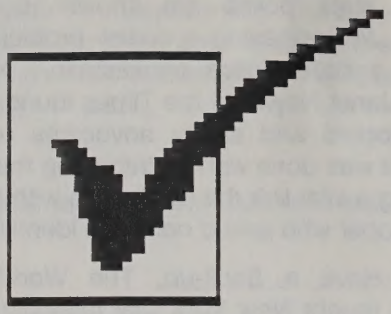
* * *

HAMFESTS (Courtesy of the Frequency Forum BBS)

May 1 Kent Island, Md Hamfest
May 9 Roanoke Valley Hamfest, Vinton, (Roanoke) Va
May 16 Wheeling, WV Hamfest
May 16 Hagerstown, Md Hamfest
May 30 Maryland FM Assoc. Hamfest, Howard County Fairgrounds
Jun 6 Ole VA Hams, Manassas, Va
Jun 20 Frederick Hamfest, Frederick, Md
Jul 11 Carroll County Hamfest, Westminster, Md
Jul 25 BRATS, Timonium, Md
Aug 1 Shenandoah Valley Hamfest, Berryville, Va
Aug 28 Roanoke Valley Hamfest
Aug 29 Southern Patuxent Hamfest, Upper Marlboro, Md
Aug 29 Hershey Park Hamfest, Hershey, Pa
Sep 12 FARFest, Gaithersburg, Md

FUTURE MEETING PLANS

If you have an interest in serving on the CHM board of directors, please contact Alan. We will then notify you of any club organizational ("non-scanner related") activities.



Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. Additionally, we welcome frequency and visitor requests, but kindly include a SASE.

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Bill Hardman, Layout Editor & Stuff
Mike Peyton and Dave Clark, Distribution
Brent Baker, NewsScan Editor
Ken Fowler, Amateur Radio Net Coordinator

The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues (which includes 12 issues) are $8. Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney.

Meeting Coordinators:

Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-902-6241)

Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

Capitol Hill Monitor's Scanner/Shortwave Net:

Listen for the CHM net, hosted by Ken Fowler, at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month on 146.91 MHz.

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor!

Capitol Hill Monitors
c/o Alan Henney
2531 Prince Georges Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912-5414

11 Issues Remaining

[redacted]